

REPORT

DATE: January 5, 2005

TO: Regional Council

FROM: Energy and Environment Committee
Jacob Lieb, Acting Lead Regional Planner, (213) 236-1921, lieb@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Renew LA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize staff to send a letter in support of the Renew LA concept.

SUMMARY

The Renew LA program is a proposed effort led by Councilman Greig Smith to develop Conversion Technologies for Solid Waste in the City of Los Angeles. The Regional Council has taken various positions in support of conversion technologies. The Energy and Environment Committee has recommended that the Regional Council send a letter to the City of Los Angeles in support of the Renew LA concept.

BACKGROUND:

Solid Waste management and disposal continues to be a serious issue facing the Southern California region. At present, there is not sufficient land fill capacity to meet needs associated with anticipated growth. At the same time, siting new landfill facilities is increasingly difficult due to neighborhood concerns.

Conversion technologies, which convert solid waste to usable materials, including waste to energy present an opportunity for innovative solutions to waste disposal. The City of Los Angeles, through the Renew LA program, proposes a long term action plan, including policy, technology development, and best practices to move from waste disposal to resource recovery.

In discussion on this item on January 5, the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC), while generally supportive of Renew LA, expressed concern that any eventual SCAG position should be clearly construed as encouragement to the City of Los Angeles in pursuing program basic concepts, rather than advocating any specific action for the City. Further, the Committee expressed that while the City may choose to pursue more ambitious solid waste diversion goals, that the State should not increase diversion requirements for other jurisdictions. The Committee directed staff to circulate a draft letter to members of the Solid Waste Task Force to ensure that any SCAG support for Renew LA is expressed accurately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action. SCAG's activities in solid waste planning are included in the Overall Work Program as part of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (06-035.scgs1)



Attachment:

Draft support letter

January 11, 2006

Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa
Los Angeles City Mayor
200 North Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilman Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles City Council, President
200 North Spring Street, Room 470
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Support for RENEW L.A.

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa and President Garcetti,

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is pleased to support the concept included in the *Recovering Energy, National Resources, and Economics Benefit from Waste in Los Angeles*, presented by Councilman Greig Smith. Our Association has a strong interest in the development of conversion technologies to both serve energy needs and manage waste streams.

SCAG has a commitment to environmental policy and planning, including solid waste issues. SCAG is currently updating its Regional Comprehensive Plan, in which it will feature a Solid and Hazardous Waste chapter. The chapter will present data on solid waste generation, recycling, conversion and disposal, and will provide an action plan to help implement policies. The Association also has a Solid Waste Task Force which I chair, that serves as an open forum for local government and community stakeholders. The RENEW L.A. program has the potential to serve as a model for our efforts and for cities around the region. We look forward to working with you in advancing the program's goals.

The primary purpose of Southern California Association of Government is transportation planning. At the same time, the Association has a commitment to good environmental stewardship. Therefore, we foster cooperation and information sharing among State, regional and local governments on solid waste management issues. While we applaud the City of Los Angeles for undertaking ambitious goals in solid waste reform, we want to emphasize that our support should not be construed as support for higher state diversion mandates.

We thank for your leadership on this issue. If there is anything we can do to be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me, or Carolina Morgan of SCAG staff at (213) 236-1923.

Sincerely,

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Councilmember Toni Young, City of Port Hueneme
President, Southern California Association of Governments

cc: Councilman Ed Reyes
Councilwoman Wendy Greuel
Councilman Dennis P. Zine
Councilman Tom LaBonge
Councilman Jack Weiss
Councilman Tony Cardenas
Councilman Alex Padilla
Councilman Bernard Parks
Councilwoman Jan Perry
Councilman Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
Councilman Bill Rosendahl
Councilman Greig Smith
Councilman José Huizar
Councilwoman Janice Hahn
Frank Martinez, Los Angeles City Clerk (Council File No. 05-1273-S1)
Rita Robinson, Bureau of Sanitation, General Manager